

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) An information processing system for processing media contents from a content provider, comprising:

at least one information processing apparatus for processing accounting information;

a control apparatus configured to enable the flow of said media contents from said content provider directly to said at least one information processing apparatus; and

a master information processing apparatus in communication with said at least one information processing apparatus and said control apparatus, said master information processing apparatus including:

a first transmitter to transmit appropriate proxy account settlement information to said at least one information processing apparatus;

a first receiver to receive said accounting information from said at least one information processing apparatus sent in response to said proxy account settlement information, said accounting information related to payment for said media contents, said media contents received directly by said at least one information processing apparatus from said content provider, said first receiver generating payment information when said accounting information is processed;

a second transmitter to transmit said payment information to said control apparatus; and

a second receiver to receive registration conditions from said control apparatus, said registration conditions prepared in response to receiving said payment information from the master information processing apparatus that settles payment for media contents received directly by said at least one information processing apparatus[.].

wherein the first receiver and second receiver each contains a registration list that stores information about the corresponding receiver and determines which receiver is eligible for proxy account settlement.

9. (Previously Presented) The information processing system of claim 8, wherein said control apparatus includes a service provider.

10. (Previously Presented) The information processing system of claim 8, wherein said information processing system includes an electronic music distribution system.

11. (Previously Presented) The information processing system of claim 8, wherein said first transmitter transmits said appropriate proxy account settlement information to said at least one information processing apparatus over a local-area network.

12. (Previously Presented) The information processing system of claim 8, wherein said second transmitter in said master information processing apparatus transmits said accounting information to said control apparatus over a wide-area network.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling the flow of media contents from a content provider to at least one information processing apparatus, comprising:

enabling the flow of said media contents from said content provider directly to said at least one information processing apparatus, which processes accounting information; and

controlling communication between a master information processing apparatus and said at least one information processing apparatus, including:

transmitting appropriate proxy account settlement information from said master information processing apparatus to said at least one information processing apparatus;

receiving said accounting information at said master information processing apparatus from said at least one information processing apparatus sent in response to said proxy account settlement information, said accounting information related to payment for said media contents, said media contents received directly by said at least one information processing apparatus from said content provider;

generating payment information when said accounting information is processed at said master information processing apparatus;

transmitting said payment information to said content provider; and

receiving registration conditions from said content provider, wherein the registration conditions are prepared in response to receiving said payment information from the master information processing apparatus that settles payment for media contents received directly by said at least one information processing apparatus[[]], and using a registration list in the at least one information processing apparatus for storing information about the corresponding at least one information processing apparatus and determining which of the at least one information processing apparatus is eligible for proxy account settlement.